

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Final Environmental Assessment

California State Parks Accessibility Improvements Project at Millerton Lake State Recreation Area

EA-15-019



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

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Mission Statements

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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Section 1 Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) between February 03, 2017 and March 6, 2017. Reclamation received one comment letter. The comment letter and Reclamation's response to comments are included in Appendix A. Changes between this Final EA and the Draft EA, which are not minor editorial changes, are indicated by vertical lines in the left margin of this document.

1.1 Background

Millerton Lake is a reservoir formed by Friant Dam and is owned and operated by Reclamation. The lake is located northeast of the City of Fresno, in Fresno and Madera Counties (Figure 1). Although the lake's primary purpose is for water storage, a variety of recreational opportunities are also available at the Millerton Lake State Recreational Area (Millerton Lake SRA). Facilities include campgrounds, interpretive displays, swimming beaches, boat launches and trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) operates and maintains Millerton Lake SRA on Reclamation's behalf pursuant to operating agreement 12-LC-20-0152.

An inspection of the Millerton Lake SRA by State Parks determined that upgrades to existing recreational facilities within the North Shore of the Millerton Lake SRA are needed in order to be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant.

1.2 Need for the Proposed Action

The following facilities need to be upgraded in order to be ADA compliant with current regulations: (1) campsites, (2) comfort station, (3) horse camp, and (4) campfire center. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide safe and accommodating facilities that are ADA compliant.

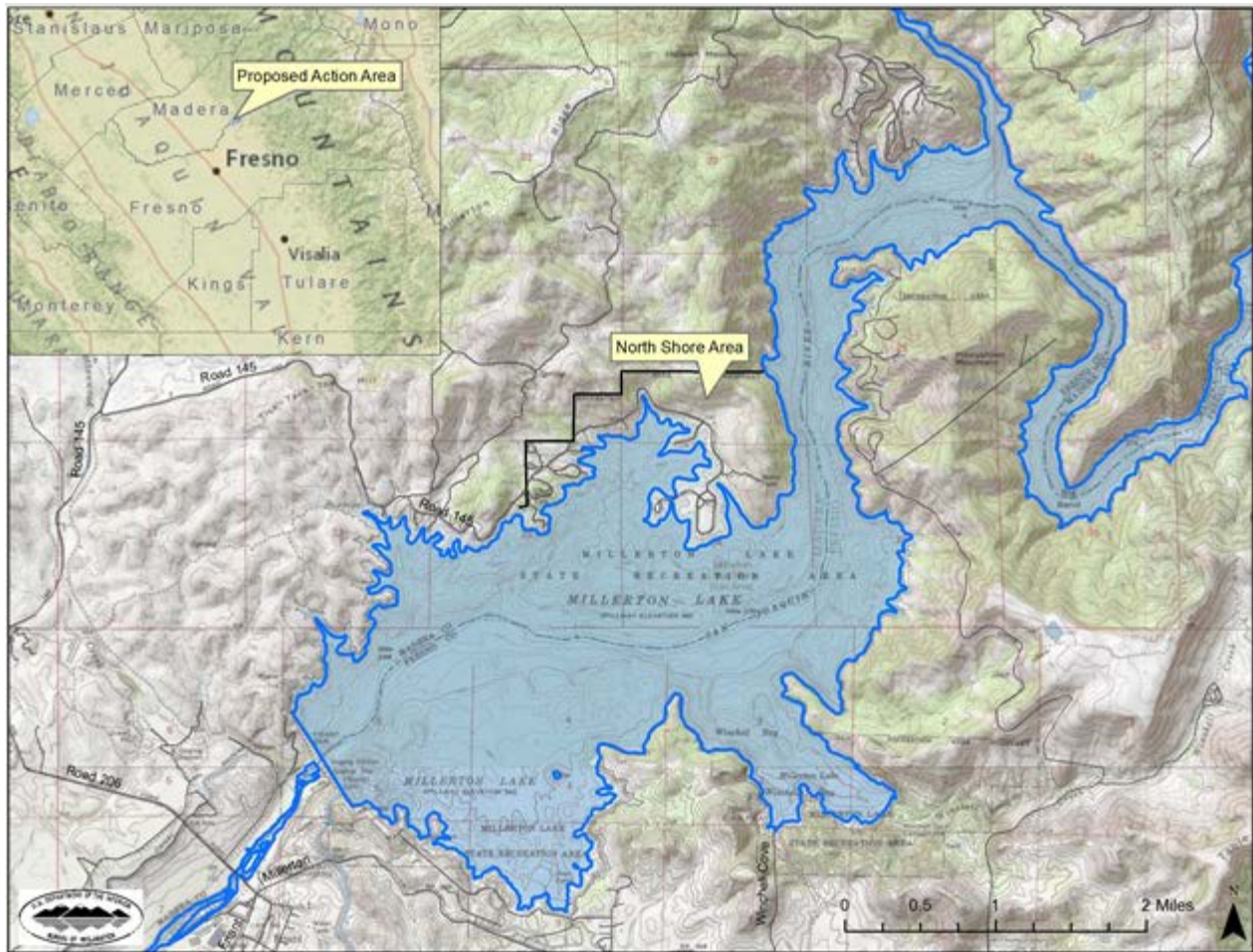


Figure 1. Proposed Action Area at Millerton Lake SRA North Shore Area.

Section 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

This Environmental Assessment considers two possible actions: the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative reflects future conditions without the Proposed Action and serves as a basis of comparison for determining potential effects to the human environment.

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, Reclamation would not provide funding and approval to State Parks to upgrade facilities within the Millerton Lake SRA. Accordingly, the existing toilets, unpaved parking, and pathways would remain in place and would continue to not meet current ADA standards for accessibility.

2.2 Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to provide funding and approval to State Parks to complete minor modifications to the following existing infrastructure within the Millerton Lake SRA: (1) eight campsites (# 3, 5, 16, 43, 120, 132, 133, and 144), (2) one comfort station (combination centers for Restrooms and Showers), (3) a horse camp, and (4) the campfire center (see Figure 2 for locations at North Shore area).

Specific Project details include the following:

- Meadows Campsites # 120, 132, 133, and 144: Water stations would be modified and concrete pads with drains and catch basins installed (typical size for all water stations are 60 inch by 60 inch by 4 inch). Concrete pads would be installed at each of the electrical hook ups (60 inch by 80 inch by 4 inch). Fire rings would be relocated, as necessary, and concrete and raised tactile paving (detectable warning surfaces) installed (typical size of tactile paving for a fire ring is 11 feet by 11 feet).
- Fort Miller Campsite # 43: A 5 foot by 20 foot by 6 inch concrete walkway would be installed to provide access from the parking space to the table pad. The water station would be modified and a concrete pad with a drain and catch basin installed. The fire ring would be relocated and concrete and tactile paving installed.
- Rocky Point Campsite # 3: A 4 foot by 18 foot by 6 inch concrete walkway would be installed to provide access from the parking space to the table pad. The water station would be modified and concrete pad with drain and catch basin installed. The fire ring would be relocated and concrete and tactile paving installed.

- Rocky Point Campsite # 5: Site would be refurbished and re-leveled. The concrete slab would be removed and replaced by a 4 inch by 6 inch Redwood border and backfilled with compacted road base and decomposed granite surface (18 feet by 18 feet). A water station and fire ring would be installed (within the existing disturbed area). Also, a new parking pad poured (20 feet by 20 feet by 6 inches), and shade ramada would be installed. The installation of the shade ramada would require four holes, 24 inches in diameter by 36 inches deep (typical size excavation footings needed for shade ramada).
- Rocky Point Campsite # 16: Uneven asphalt and concrete would be replaced (18 feet by 20 feet by 6 inches) with concrete to tie in with the existing table pad. The food locker would be relocated and water station modified, including installation of concrete pad with drain and catch basin. The fire ring would be relocated and concrete and tactile paving installed.
- Rocky Point comfort station: Two (2) 5 foot by 15 foot by 6 inch concrete walkways would be poured to provide access from the campground road to the comfort station. Approximately 6 inches of excavation is required to match existing sidewalk. Signs would be mounted on the strike side of the door and new door closures installed to improve operational pressure. The tiled bench in the shower room would be removed. Also, the drinking fountain would be replaced with a high /low drinking fountain. A 60 inch by 60 inch concrete slab would be poured adjacent and across from the existing fountain mounted on the restroom.
- Horse Camp: There would be minor re-leveling of existing site. A new shade ramada would be installed next to an existing ramada. Ramada pad would be 4 inches by 6 inches Redwood border, and backfilled with compacted road base and decomposed granite surface topping (18 feet by 18 feet 6 inches). A table, fire ring, and water station would be installed. The chemical toilet would be replaced with an ADA compliant model. Also, a horse access ramp and mounting platform would be installed. This would require a 20 foot by 5 foot by 6 inch concrete walkway and altering of the platform to accommodate 4 foot by 4 foot companion seating.
- Campfire Center: The speaker's podium would be rebuilt and benches and fire ring shortened. The concrete walkway would be extended to incorporate the North side bench and speaker's podium. A 5 foot by 20 foot by 6 inch concrete slab parallel to the front row of benches would be poured to make level. For companion seating, a 4 foot by 4 foot by 6 inch slab would be poured and an additional bench installed. The updates to this site would require excavation of up to 9 inches for the placement of borders, and up to 24 inches for any posts or signage.

Construction equipment would include: skid steer loaders, plate compactors, paving equipment, a hand held post auger (8 inch), and hand tools. Construction is expected to begin in early summer 2017 and would last approximately 15 weeks. All work would occur during daylight hours and would not extend beyond previously disturbed and developed areas.

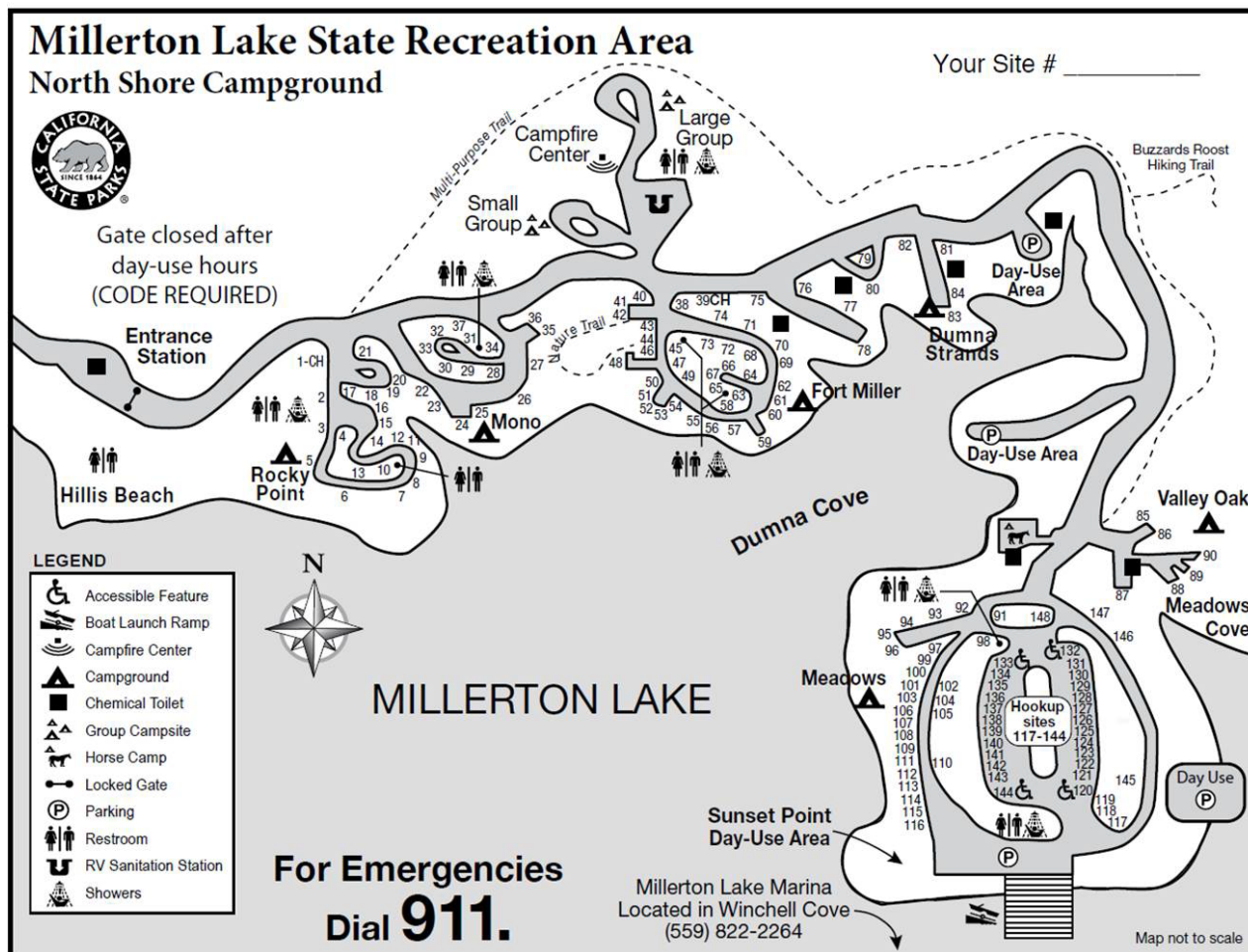


Figure 2. Proposed North Shore Accessibility Improvements Area.

2.2.1 Environmental Commitments

State Parks would implement the environmental protection measures included in Table 1 to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action.

Environmental consequences for biological resources assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Table 1. Environmental Protection Measures and Commitments.

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	A biological opinion with an incidental take permit was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for impacts to the California tiger salamander (Appendix B). The conservation measures, reasonable and prudent measures, and terms and conditions identified within the biological opinion shall be fully implemented.
Biological Resources	If work on the Proposed Action occurs during the bird breeding season (February 1 to August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct nesting bird surveys in tree(s) located within and immediately adjacent to the Proposed Action area. If a nesting migratory bird is found, no construction on the Project shall occur within 35 feet of the nest until the young have fledged or until a qualified biologist determines that the nest is no longer active. All survey documentation shall be submitted to Reclamation prior to the start of construction. No nesting bird surveys are required if work occurs outside of the bird breeding season.

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Section 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This section identifies the potentially affected environment and the environmental consequences involved with the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative, in addition to environmental trends and conditions that currently exist.

3.1 Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis

Reclamation analyzed the affected environment and determined that the Proposed Action did not have the potential to cause direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse effects to the resources listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis.

Resource	Reason Eliminated
Environmental Justice	The Proposed Action would not cause dislocation, changes in employment, or increase flood, drought, or disease nor would it disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged or minority populations.
Indian Sacred Sites	The Proposed Action would not limit access to ceremonial use of Indian Sacred Sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. Therefore, there would be no impacts to Indian Sacred Sites as a result of the Proposed Action.
Indian Trusts Assets	The Proposed Action would not impact Indian Trusts Assets as there are none in the Proposed Action area. The nearest Indian Trusts Assets is Table Mountain Rancheria approximately 2.96 miles from the Proposed Action area.
Land Use	The Proposed Action would not change the area's land use designation, as replacement of existing infrastructure or facilities would occur within the existing footprint. There would be no impact to land use as a result of the Proposed Action. Also, improvements would be consistent with the Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for managing recreation lands around Millerton Lake (Reclamation 2010).
Water Resources	The Proposed Action would not impact water resources because construction activities would not occur within the reservoir, nor would the Project impact water quality either through runoff or drainage, as they are outside of the Project footprint.

3.2 Recreation

3.2.1 Affected Environment

Lakes and rivers have always been a primary focus for outdoor recreation activities in California. Millerton Lake is a multipurpose facility, supplying agricultural irrigation water, flood control, and recreation facilities. There are approximately 51 miles of lake and river shoreline within Millerton Lake SRA. Recreation activities include fishing, boating, swimming, water skiing, personal watercraft use, hiking, mountain biking, picnicking, camping, and horseback riding. Many, but not all, of the recreational facilities are ADA-compliant. For further details of

existing recreational uses at Millerton Lake, please see the Millerton Lake Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (Reclamation 2010).

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, no recreation facilities would be installed or improved. Accordingly, visitors and other recreationists with disabilities could have limited access to recreational facilities at Millerton Lake.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, these improvements would enhance Millerton Lake SRA public services and public safety. The Proposed Action would upgrade existing facilities in order to comply with ADA accessibility requirements.

The Proposed Action is consistent with the Millerton Lake Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement for the enhancement of current recreational uses and facilities (Reclamation 2010). The Plan includes management actions to enhance, replace, or upgrade existing recreational uses and facilities and installation of new facilities to expand or complement existing uses and facilities. During construction of these improvements, some existing recreational opportunities may be temporarily unavailable for use resulting in short-term minor adverse recreation impacts. However, these recreational improvements would result in long-term beneficial impacts on recreation by providing recreational opportunities to visitors with disabilities, which could result in greater visitor use.

Cumulative Impacts

New or improved Millerton Lake recreational facilities that would be built under this Proposed Action, and any future projects, would have long-term beneficial impacts on recreation. Visitation could be expected to increase due to improvements to access trails and facilities that make the reservoir and shoreline more accessible to a wider range of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, including disabled visitors and other recreationists who may have trouble negotiating unpaved surfaces.

3.3 Biological Resources

3.3.1 Affected Environment

On June 1, 2015, Reclamation obtained an official species list for the Proposed Action area from the Service via the Service's website, <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>, (Consultation Code: 08ESMF00-2015-SLI-0620). The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) was also queried for records of protected species within the Proposed Action area (CNDDB 2015), and Reclamation biologists conducted a reconnaissance level survey of the Proposed Action area on August 17, 2015. The information collected above, in addition to information within Reclamation's files, was combined to determine the likelihood of protected species occurrence within the Proposed Action area and is summarized below in Table 3. There is no designated Critical Habitat within the Proposed Action area.

Table 3. Federally Listed Species.

Species	Status	Effects	Occurrence in the Action Area
INVERTEBRATES			
Conservancy fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	E, X	NE	Absent. Vernal pool habitat is not present within the Proposed Action area. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	T, X	NE	Absent. Vernal pool habitat is not present within the Proposed Action area. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	T, X	NE	Absent. This species' host plant, the elderberry bush, is not present within or near the Proposed Action area. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
FISH			
Delta smelt <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	T, X	NE	Absent. This species is not present in the Proposed Action area due to a lack of suitable aquatic habitat. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
Steelhead Northern California DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T, X	NE	Absent. This species is not present in the Proposed Action area due to a lack of suitable aquatic habitat. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
AMPHIBIANS			
California red-legged frog <i>Rana draytonii</i>	T, X	NE	Absent. This species was extirpated from the Central Valley in the late 1950s, and does not occur in the Proposed Action area. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
California tiger salamander Central California DPS <i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	T, X	MAA	Possible. The Proposed Action area contains several ground squirrel burrows that may provide suitable upland habitat for this species, and there are several potentially suitable breeding ponds within 1.24 miles of the Proposed Action area.
REPTILES			
Blunt-nosed leopard lizard <i>Gambelia sila</i>	E	NE	Absent. The Proposed Action area is not located within this species' current range. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
BIRDS			
Swainson's hawk <i>Buteo swainsonii</i>	MBTA	NT	Possible. There are trees near the Proposed Action area that may provide suitable nesting habitat for this species.
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	MBTA	NT	Possible. Bald eagles are known to winter at Millerton Lake; however there have been no records of nesting bald eagles in the vicinity of the Proposed Action area.
Burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	MBTA	NT	Absent. The Proposed Action area contains several trees and shrubs, which make the habitat unsuitable for burrowing owls. There are no CNDDDB records of burrowing owls in or near the Proposed Action area.
MAMMALS			
Fresno kangaroo rat <i>Dipodomys nitratoides exilis</i>	E, X	NE	Absent. The Proposed Action area is not located within this species' range. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
San Joaquin kit fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	E	NE	Absent. The Proposed Action area is not located within this species' current range. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.

Species	Status	Effects	Occurrence in the Action Area
PLANTS			
Fleshy Owl's Clover <i>Castilleja campestris</i> spp. <i>succulenta</i>	T, X	NE	Absent. This species requires vernal pool habitat, and vernal pool habitat is not present within the Proposed Action area. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
Hartweg's golden sunburst <i>Pseudobahia bahiifolia</i>	E	NE	Absent. This species does not occur within the Proposed Action area. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.

1 Status= Listing of Federally special status species

E: Listed as Endangered

MBTA: Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

T: Listed as Threatened

X: Species has final designated Critical Habitat

2 Effects = Effect determination

NE: No Effect from the Proposed Action to federally listed species

MAA: The Proposed Action May Adversely Affect federally listed species

NT: No Take of migratory birds would occur from the Proposed Action

3 Definition Of Occurrence Indicators

Absent: Species not recorded in study area and/or habitat requirements not met

Possible: Species has the potential to occur in the Action area

Present: Species recorded in or near Action area and habitat present

The Proposed Action area consists of developed campsites and recreational areas on the North Shore of Millerton Lake. A majority of the Proposed Action area consists of gravel surfaces, and concrete pads and walkways with areas of bare compacted dirt and existing structures. Several portions of the Action area contain trees, or are located in close proximity to trees. There is a large population of California ground squirrels on the site, and there are several burrows throughout most of the Proposed Action area. The Proposed Action area is bordered to the north by blue oak woodland and non-native annual grasslands that are grazed by cattle and contain multiple stock ponds and seasonal pools. Federally protected species that may occur within the Proposed Action area include the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and the Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsonii*).

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the Millerton Lake SRA would not be upgraded for compliance with the ADA, and the site would continue to be used for recreational purposes as it is now. Because baseline conditions in the Millerton Lake SRA would remain the same, there would be no effect to special-status species.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, a total area of approximately 0.77 acres of existing campground and recreational facilities would be temporarily affected during construction. A majority of the Proposed Action area consists of gravel surfaces, concrete pads and walkways, and areas of bare compacted dirt. There are multiple California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) burrows located within the Proposed Action area that may be used by California tiger salamanders which cannot be avoided during construction. In order to avoid injuring or killing any California tiger salamanders that may be present in these burrows during construction, the burrows would be carefully excavated under the supervision of a qualified biologist and any

California tiger salamanders found in the burrows would be relocated to suitable habitat outside of the Action Area (Appendix B).

The Proposed Action area does not contain any vernal pools, or other potentially suitable breeding habitat for California tiger salamanders, so no breeding habitat for this species would be affected. The Proposed Action would occur within existing campground areas, and would not result in the development or loss of undisturbed natural habitat. Furthermore, the Proposed Action would not prevent California ground squirrels and other small mammals from creating burrows on the site after construction is complete, as is evidenced by the multiple burrows currently on the site which pass directly underneath existing campground infrastructure.

The Proposed Action may result in the harassment or capture of California tiger salamanders during construction, but conditions on the site are expected to return to current baseline levels of disturbance once construction is complete. Potential impacts to California tiger salamanders would be avoided and/or minimized by the Environmental Commitments incorporated into the Proposed Action (Table 1; Appendix B). Reclamation determined that the Proposed Action *may adversely affect* the California tiger salamander and sent a request for formal consultation to the Service on November 20, 2015. The Service issued a Biological Opinion for the Proposed Action on August 30, 2016 with an incidental take permit exempting incidental take of California tiger salamanders in the form of harassment or capture associated with the Proposed Project (Appendix B).

Several portions of the Proposed Action area contain trees, or are located in close proximity to trees, which may provide suitable nesting habitat for Swainson's hawks or other migratory birds. Migratory birds nesting in or near the Proposed Action area are likely somewhat more tolerant of human disturbance than birds that nest in undeveloped areas; however, increased noise levels from construction associated with the Proposed Action may still disturb birds if any are nesting in the Proposed Action area during construction. Potential impacts to nesting birds would be avoided with the implementation of the Environmental Commitments incorporated into the Proposed Action (Table 1).

No critical habitat would be impacted, because there is no critical habitat present within the Proposed Action area.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts from projects within the Millerton Lake SRA were addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Millerton Lake Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. This project, and other similar improvements for compliance with the ADA, were analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement and it was determined that there would be no additional cumulative impacts resulting from this project.

3.4 Cultural Resources

"Cultural resources" is a broad term that applies to prehistoric and historic-era archaeological sites and structures, components of the built environment, and traditional cultural properties, all of which provide evidence of human behaviors, economic activities, and cultural traditions, both

past and present. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.) is the primary legislation outlining the Federal government's responsibilities related to the identification and preservation of significant cultural resources. Cultural resources that are included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are known as "historic properties." 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the NHPA, requires Federal agencies to take into consideration the effects of their undertakings on historic properties.

The Section 106 process is outlined in the Federal regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. These regulations describe the process a Federal agency (Reclamation) follows to identify and determine the level of effect a proposed undertaking would have on historic properties. The Section 106 process requires consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Indian tribes that may have concerns about effects on sites of religious or cultural significance, and other parties, as appropriate.

3.4.1 Affected Environment

The San Joaquin Valley Subregion of the Central Valley of California is abundant with cultural resources ranging from small archaeological sites to pre-historic villages, and historic-era resources ranging from bridges and buildings to canals and roads. The historic and contemporary landscape in much of the region consists of agricultural fields of permanent and rotational crops, supporting infrastructure such as water conveyance systems, roads, farm outbuildings, residences, and other components of the built environment. The current landscape within the Millerton Lake SRA is maintained for lake and shoreline based recreation activities.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to cultural resources since there would be no change in operations and no ground disturbance. Conditions related to cultural resources would remain the same as existing conditions.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action, which involves the upgrade to campsites and campsite related facilities in order to be ADA compliant, involves the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). For the Proposed Action, State Parks conducted a cultural resources inventory for the proposed project area and identified no cultural resources. However, Reclamation considers the SRA as possibly representative of a California reservoir recreation tradition that began with the Central Valley Project at the Millerton Reservoir location.

Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Big Sandy Rancheria, the Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, and the North Fork Mono Tribe as Indian tribes who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the project areas. No responses from the aforementioned tribes were received.

Reclamation applied the criteria of adverse effect of the undertaking to the campgrounds, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5, and found there would be no adverse effects. The undertaking

involves modifications consistent with the current existing conditions, continual upgrades, and uses of the campgrounds. The impact will not affect any of the characteristics which potentially make the campgrounds and SRA eligible for listing on the National Register.

Reclamation initiated consultation with SHPO on September 2, 2016 with a notification of a determination of no adverse effects to historic properties for the proposed project. SHPO concurred with the determination on October 30, 2016 (Appendix C).

Implementation of the Proposed Action would have no significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cumulative Impacts

The Proposed Action would not contribute to any cumulative impacts to Cultural Resources.

3.5 Air Quality

Section 176 (C) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7506 (C)) requires any entity of the federal government that engages in, supports, or in any way provides financial support for, licenses or permits, or approves any activity to demonstrate that the action conforms to the applicable State Implementation Plan required under Section 110 (a) of the Federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 [a]) before the action is otherwise approved. In this context, conformity means that such federal actions must be consistent with State Implementation Plan's purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and achieving expeditious attainment of those standards. Each federal agency must determine that any action that is proposed by the agency and that is subject to the regulations implementing the conformity requirements would, in fact conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan before the action is taken.

On November 30, 1993, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated final general conformity regulations at 40 CFR 93 Subpart B for all federal activities except those covered under transportation conformity. The general conformity regulations apply to a proposed federal action in a non-attainment or maintenance area if the total of direct and indirect emissions of the relevant criteria pollutants and precursor pollutant caused by the Proposed Action equal or exceed certain *de minimis* amounts thus requiring the federal agency to make a determination of general conformity.

3.5.1 Affected Environment

The Proposed Action area lies within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin and is under the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District). The pollutants of greatest concern in the San Joaquin Valley are carbon monoxide, ozone, ozone precursors such as reactive organic gases (ROG) or volatile organic compounds (VOC), inhalable particulate matter between 2.5 and 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀) and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}). The San Joaquin Valley Air Basin has reached Federal and State attainment status for carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. Although Federal attainment status has been reached for PM₁₀, the State standard has not been met and both are in non-attainment for ozone and PM_{2.5} (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution

Control District 2015a). There are no established standards for nitrogen oxides (NO_x); however, they do contribute to nitrogen dioxide standards and ozone precursors (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District 2015a). For a list of current established air pollution thresholds for the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, please see Table 4.

Table 4. Air Quality Standards of San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Constituent	Threshold
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG)	10 tons/year
Nitrogen Oxide (NO _x)	10 tons/year
Particulate Matter - 10 microns (PM ₁₀)	15 tons/year
PM _{2.5}	15 tons/year
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	100 tons/year

Source: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District 2015b

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impact to regional air quality, as existing conditions would continue.

Proposed Action

During construction, ozone precursors and criteria pollutants would be emitted by operation of construction equipment, and these emissions would incrementally add to the regional atmospheric loading of ozone precursors during project development.

The Air District has established screening thresholds to determine whether a proposed project has a potential to exceed their air quality standards (Table 4). Construction activities would cause temporary impacts to air quality due to dust and exhaust emissions. Table 5 summarizes estimated air quality emissions for construction activities associated with the Proposed Action. Construction under the Proposed Action would result in the temporary generation of ROG, NO_x, PM_{10/2.5}, and carbon monoxide emissions, but are well below threshold levels (see Table 5).

The Proposed Action would not impact the Air District's plans to achieve or maintain attainment for various air quality pollutants. As such, the Proposed Action would not obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans.

Cumulative Impacts

The Proposed Action would not contribute to an exceedance of applicable air quality standards and thresholds via emissions. The emissions would be temporary, and would not substantially contribute to a cumulative impact within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.

Table 5. Potential Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions Associated with Construction Activities.

Equipment Type ¹	Max HP	ROG lb/hr ²	NO _x lb/hr ²	PM _{10/2.5} lb/hr ²	CO lb/hr ²	CO ₂ lb/hr ²
Skid Steer Loaders	25	0.018	0.111	0.005	0.060	13.794
Plate Compactors	15	0.005	0.031	0.001	0.027	4.314
Paving Equipment	25	0.015	0.096	0.004	0.052	12.628
Max lb/hr		0.039	0.238	0.011	0.106	30.736

Max lb/dy	0.309	1.907	0.082	0.846	245.887
Max lb/yr	175.485	1,083.181	46.299	480.174	139,663.712
Max tons/year	0.088	0.542	0.0239	0.240	69.832
De minimis threshold tons/year³	10	10	10	--	25,000

Source: South Coast Air Quality Management District. 2008. Off-road Mobile Source Emission Factors (Scenario Years 2007 – 2025).

1 Assuming 15 weeks at 8 hours/day

2 lb/hr = pounds per hour, unless otherwise indicated.

3 Source: the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin's adopted thresholds of significance for construction emissions of criteria pollutants (de minimis) 2015b.

3.6 Global Climate Change

3.6.1 Affected Environment

Climate change refers to significant change in measures of climate (e.g., temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for decades or longer. Many environmental changes can contribute to climate change [changes in sun's intensity, changes in ocean circulation, deforestation, urbanization, burning fossil fuels, etc.] (EPA 2014a).

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are often called greenhouse gases. Some greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), occur naturally and are emitted to the atmosphere through natural processes and human activities. Other greenhouse gases (e.g., fluorinated gases) are created and emitted solely through human activities. The principal greenhouse gases that enter the atmosphere because of human activities are: CO₂, methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gasses (EPA 2014a).

During the past century humans have substantially added to the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, oil and gasoline to power our cars, factories, utilities and appliances. The added gases, primarily CO₂ and CH₄, are enhancing the natural greenhouse effect, and likely contributing to an increase in global average temperature and related climate changes. At present, there are uncertainties associated with the science of climate change (EPA 2014b).

Climate change has only recently been widely recognized as an imminent threat to the global climate, economy, and population. As a result, the national, state, and local climate change regulatory setting is complex and evolving.

In 2006, the State of California issued the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, widely known as Assembly Bill 32, which requires California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop and enforce regulations for the reporting and verification of statewide greenhouse gases emissions. CARB is further directed to set a greenhouse gases emission limit, based on 1990 levels, to be achieved by 2020.

In addition, the EPA has issued regulatory actions under the Clean Air Act as well as other statutory authorities to address climate change issues (EPA 2014b). In 2009, the EPA issued a rule (40 CFR Part 98) for mandatory reporting of greenhouse gases by large source emitters and

suppliers that emit 25,000 metric tons or more of greenhouse gases [as CO₂ equivalents per year] (EPA 2009). The rule is intended to collect accurate and timely emissions data to guide future policy decisions on climate change and has undergone and is still undergoing revisions (EPA 2014c).

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action

If no action were taken, there would be no resultant greenhouse gases emissions. Current trends would be unaffected.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, there would be temporary and minor increase in greenhouse gases emissions (Table 5). Annual construction emissions of CO_{2e} are estimated to be 69.8 metric tons per year, and are well below the 25,000 metric tons or more per year thresholds.

Cumulative Impacts

While any increase in greenhouse gases emissions would add to the global inventory of gases that would contribute to global climate change, the Proposed Action would result in potentially minimal to no increases in greenhouse gases emissions and a net increase in greenhouse gases emissions among the pool of greenhouse gases would not be detectable.

Section 4 Consultation and Coordination

4.1 Public Review Period

Reclamation provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft FONSI and Draft EA) between February 03, 2017 and March 6, 2017. One comment letter was received. The comment letter and Reclamation's response to comments are included in Appendix A.

4.2 List of Agencies and Persons Consulted

Reclamation has consulted with the following regarding the Proposed Action:

- Native American Heritage Commission
- State Historic Preservation Officer
- Office of Historic Preservation
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Reclamation has also coordinated with State Parks on the Proposed Action.

4.3 National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.)

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), requires that federal agencies give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on the effects of an undertaking on historic properties, properties that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The 36 CFR Part 800 regulations implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effects of federal undertakings on historic properties, properties determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Compliance with Section 106 follows a series of steps that are designed to identify interested parties, determine the area of potential effects, conduct cultural resource inventories, determine if historic properties are present within the area of potential effects, and assess effects on any identified historic properties.

Reclamation initiated consultation with SHPO by Letter on September 2, 2016 with a notification of a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties for the proposed project. SHPO concurred with the determination in a letter dated October 30, 2016.

4.4 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.)

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires Federal agencies, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and/or Commerce, to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat of these species.

Reclamation determined that the Proposed Action *may adversely affect* the California tiger salamander, and initiated formal consultation with the Service, under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act on November 20, 2015. The Service issued a Biological Opinion for the Proposed Action on August 30, 2016 with an incidental take permit exempting incidental take of California tiger salamanders in the form of harassment or capture associated with the Proposed Project (Appendix B).

Section 5 References

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